

Flight Jacket

Vol. 2, No. 39

October 6, 2000

Proudly Serving the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Community

Past and present

Red Devils celebrate squadron's 75th anniversary

By Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 "Red Devils" celebrated their 75th anniversary with a reunion Sept. 30 in Hangar One here.

Dozens of Red Devils, past and present, gathered at Hangar One to show support and pride for the Corps' oldest squadron with a "fighter" designation.

The ceremony began with a video compilation of the Red Devils in action, dating from World War II to present.

As part of a Red Devil tradition, a cake cutting ceremony ensued, calling on the oldest and youngest Red Devils to do the honors of accepting the first pieces of cake.

During the ceremony Lt. Col. Terrance Gould, VMFA-232 commanding officer, and Maj. Michael Burt, VMFA-232 executive officer, presented Ray Nitchken, former Red Devils pilot, with the Distinguished Flying Cross and five gold stars for his actions during World War II.

As one of the Marine Corps' oldest and most decorated active flying squadrons, the Red Devils have a proud history.

Sept. 1, 1925, a Vought VE-7 single seat biplane took to the skies, piloted by 2nd Lt.

Clayton C. Jerome, donning a brilliant Red Devil's insignia, marking the beginning of what continues to be long a prosperous commissioning for VMFA-232.

The Red Devils saw action as the first Marine dive-bomber squadron to fly against Japanese forces in retaliation for the attack on Pearl Harbor and Wake Island and were the last Marine squadron to leave Southeast Asia, following the Vietnam War.

To close the ceremony, Gould took to the podium with a message for his squadron and former Red Devils.

"To the current Red Devils, before you, you see seated the former Red Devils, responsible for the freedom and liberty that we enjoy as a society and for the reputation we now employ as a squadron. It's through their tireless efforts, hard work and sacrifice that allowed the squadron to endure through time. Unselfishly some paid the ultimate price. They forged the Red Devil reputation through war years," said Gould. "We continue to hone that reputation today. We owe them a debt of gratitude that we will never be able to repay. Red Devils, take this opportunity to get to know the heroes that you see seated in front of you."

See '232, page 10



photo by Lance Cpl. Cory P. Griffith

Lt. Col. Terrance Gould, commanding officer, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232, pins the Distinguished Flying Cross on Ray Nitchken, a former Red Devil pilot, during '232's 75th Anniversary ceremony Sept. 30. Nitchken was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross along with five gold stars for his actions during World War II.

Commissary aisle layouts help shoppers 'go with the flow'

Courtesy of Bonnie Powell

Marketing Business Unit, DECA

FORT LEE, VA. — Rivers flow to the sea. You can't make a business work without "flow charts." Even grocery stores have a flow.

The Defense Commissary Agency is embarking on a project to make commissaries more user-friendly by adjusting the flow of product down store aisles.

Over the next few years DeCA's commissaries will all be rearranged with customer convenience in mind. The sched-

uled Super Store reset dates for MCAS Miramar is Oct. 13 - 15. As a bonus, 22 stores with enough shelf space to handle additional stock will become "Super Stores."

According to Steve Sones, chief of the Marketing Business Unit's Reset and Planogram Team, a user-friendly flow means dog food will be next to pet supplies (not charcoal), peanut butter is best found next to the jam, and you shouldn't have to cruise three different aisles to find

See DECA, page 10

Marines give of themselves to help community

By Sgt. Troy M. Ruby

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marines of both Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 and 16 combined forces recently to help the local chapter of the American Red Cross by donating blood during their annual blood drive.

"In San Diego, we are always desperately short of blood," said Candace Richards the blood drive charge nurse. "We were invited to do a blood drive here and so we will be collecting units that will be introduced into the general population. If all goes well with the donations, the blood will be off the shelves and used by patients within a week."

"I appreciate these Marines taking time out to come here and support this worthy cause. It's a good thing they are doing here," said Lt. Col. Gary Weist, commanding officer, MALS-16.

All of the blood that was collected will be used in the San Diego area, unless there is a special request for a collected, unusual blood type somewhere else in the country, said Richards.

Each individual donated one pint that was collected in a triple bag. From these donations, they are able to collect red blood



photo by Sgt. Troy M. Ruby

Lt. Col. Gary Weist and Lt. Col. William Cooper, commanding officers, MALS-16 and 11 respectively, are seen here giving blood Sept. 28, 2000, in an effort to raise blood for the American Red Cross. "Community service is a very important thing to the Marine Corps and to the community. I appreciate the time and effort these Marines made to come out and support this worthy cause," said Cooper

cells, platelets, and plasma separately.

"With one single donation, a donor can actually save up to three different lives," said Richards. "The red blood cells are used for patients with anemia or in trauma centers for blood replacement; platelets are used mainly for cases of severe bleeding as it assists in the clotting of blood."

It is also used by cancer patients to replace their platelets that are damaged during chemotherapy. Plasma is usually frozen and is used for burn patients and plasma

See Blood drive, page 10

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Gunny shows off his lighter side page 8



Flight Jacket



**Maj. Gen.
Charles F. Bolden Jr.**
Commanding
General
3d Marine Aircraft Wing

**Maj. Gen.
William G. Bowdon**
Commander,
Marine Corps Air Bases
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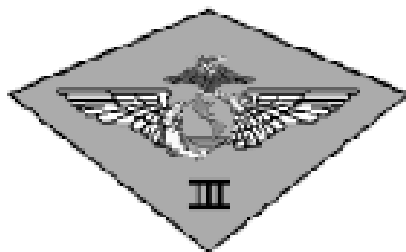
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Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

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Cpl. Scott Whittington

Combat Correspondents



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Hero awarded for lifesaving actions

By Sgt. Troy M. Ruby

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

A Miramar-based Marine was recently awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Medal for saving the life of a San Diego man following a fiery car crash last year.

Lance Cpl. Anthony Tarlton, a helicopter mechanic for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 and Lance Cpl. Thomas Slater, an airframes mechanic for HMH-361 were driving home from the Balboa Naval Hospital, when they saw a vehicle on fire on the side of the highway.

They were headed north on State Route 163 at about 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 20, 1999, when they saw the vehicle, which appeared to have run into a palm tree and was facing the opposite direction of traffic. When they passed it, they could see that someone was still inside.

"We immediately pulled over and ran to the car and started banging on the window, but the man was disoriented from the accident and wouldn't help open the door," said Tarlton, a native of Jefferson, S.C. "We tried to break the glass and open the passenger door, but nothing was working. We tried the driver's door again and it finally popped open."

The driver was still groggy, so they grabbed him by the shoulders and carried him about 25 yards, and as they set him down, the car blew up.

"When it exploded, fire went everywhere. The (embankment) was on fire, the palm tree, everything around was on fire, so we picked him up and carried him down the road to a safer area," said Tarlton.

The police arrived about five minutes after they got him out of the car and took over the scene by shutting down the north-bound side of Highway 163 and administering first aid to the injured man.

"It was scary, but I was doing what I thought anyone else would do. I just wanted to get him out of the car to safety. He wasn't even out for a minute when it blew up. I felt like I was in a movie," said Tarlton.

Tarlton believes his military training made all the difference with his decision-making and reflexes.

"I think my training in the Marine Corps was influential in my immediate reaction to the situation," said Tarlton. "I have taken CPR classes and emergency egress training with the squadron, so my only thought was on saving him."

"Something like this makes you kind of back up and look at life a little differently. I still can't believe it, but I saved someone's life, and that feels great," said Tarlton.

Although he doesn't think the driver's injuries were life threatening, Tarlton would still like to know how he is doing, but he has never heard anything else about him. He has since lost touch with Slater, as well, but still thinks about that day and wonders why more



photo by Sgt. Troy M. Ruby

Cpl. Anthony Tarlton, assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, works on a CH-53 Super Stallion, ensuring it is ready to go when needed.

people didn't stop to lend a hand.

"The one thing that sticks out in my mind about the whole thing is that only one person, a retired Air Force master sergeant, stopped to help," said Tarlton. "I figured that people would stop to help another person in need, but, at least this time, that just wasn't the case." For his actions in the saving of the man, Tarlton was just recently awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Medal. He was recently transferred from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 to MCAS New River to join the Marines of HMH 464.

Survey the Future of Corps' uniforms

By Sgt. A.C. Strong

Marine Corps News, Edited for content by Flight Jacket staff

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps Uniform Board's New Utility Survey is asking the Fleet Marine Force, and anyone who has access to the Internet, "What do you think?"

The survey allows participants to vote on their next uniform. Participants can vote at <http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/mcub> and <http://uniform.pdsinfo.com> and the results of the survey will be posted after it ends on Oct. 15.

"We would really like as many Marines to participate as possible," said Capt. Daniel W. Dukes, secretary/recorder, Permanent Marine Corps Uniform Board. "You need to ask yourselves 'How do I like this concept?' With that information, we can take the next step, and then we'll be that much closer to getting a new uniform."

General James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, directed "the development of a new utility uniform — a uniform that provides durability and practicality, as well as make us more recognizable as America's '911 Force,'" according to the Uniform Board's web page.

There are three parts to the survey: General Components, Blouse Components, and Trouser Components. Rating these components will assist the board in determining the wants and needs of the Corps regarding the utility or combat uniform.

This is an opportunity to take an active role in the decision-making process, but Marines have to move quickly. The survey will only be online until Oct. 15.

99 Days of Summer

(Far Left) Colonel Thomas A. Caughlan, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area chief of staff, stands with representatives from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron 11, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38 and Marine Corps Community Services during a 99 Days of Summer Challenge award presentation at the station theater Sept. 22. Each squadron was given a check for \$500 and a commemorative plaque as a Spirit Award for their participating in the program. MALS-11 received \$750 for giving extra effort. On top of receiving a spirit award, H&HS took home the grand prize, a check for \$1,000, for having no drug-related incidents over the three-month challenge and having more than 25 percent of squadron urinalysis testing completed.



photo by Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

CFC drive underway

By Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The 2000 Combined Federal Campaign officially opened Sept. 25 and ends Nov. 15. This year hopes are high after a record year in 1999. Nationwide, more than \$217 million was donated through the CFC last year. The CFC has provided all federal employees with a simple, hassle-free means to donate to numerous charitable organizations since it was established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961.

Because CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace, service members and civilian government workers no longer have to deal with multiple appeals for donations in the workplace year-round. Instead, the CFC program identifies a list of local, national and international charities that have been prescreened and approved by the Office of Personnel Management and local federal coordinating committees so federal employees know the organization that are seeking donations are legitimate. Furthermore, the CFC provides the percentage of total revenue each organization spends on fundraising and administrative costs so contributors know the extent of impact each dollar given will make. Funds contributed by Miramar personnel will go to their designated agency

under the San Diego County Combined Federal Campaign. Funds donated by payroll deduction will be drawn starting Jan. 1 and will be distributed beginning April. Miramar personnel contributed more than \$286,350 under the CFC last year, adding to the total of \$5,742,855 donated in San Diego County in 1999. The average contribution in SDC was more than \$107, with about 78 percent of donors electing to use the convenient payroll deduction contribution method. For more information about the CFC, contact your unit or activity CFC representative via the chain of command or go to the CFC web site at www.opm.gov/cfc.

MCAS Miramar unit CFC coordinators:

Station/H&HS	2nd Lt. Chantell Fernandez	577-1565
3d MAW HQ	Chief Warrant Officer Sheldon L. Gridley	577-7959
MACG-38	Staff Sgt. Garry C. Clayton	577-8590
MWSG-37	Gunnery Sgt. Mark A. Rabbitt	577-7209
MAG-11	Capt. Jeffery D. Sadowitz	577-6502
MALS-11	Staff Sgt. Jeffery J. Jacobson	577-6840
MAG-16	1st Lt. Bryan H. Paton	577-1780
MALS-16	2nd Lt. Gina L. Cabrales	577-1201
MAG-46 (Miramar)	Gunnery Sgt. Joseph J. Ade	577-4913
MCCS	Master Sgt. Vincente Castillo	577-4100
Exchange	Mr. Porter Smith	695-7350
13 th Dental Co.	Lt. Yaohsien M. Peng	577-1824
NavCon Brig	Chief Gary A. Hayes	577-7001
RSU	Sgt. Magda L. Betancourt	577-4020

Feed The Children responds to military families in need

Courtesy of Jacquelyn R. Ostrom

NHA Clipsheet

During 1999, Feed The Children was compelled to help after learning, through news stories (on both ABC and CBS News), of difficulties facing many military families. Several food distributions were made to U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army personnel from Virginia to California. These young servicemembers and their spouses were so hard-pressed making ends meet that they were frequenting local food pantries, flipping burgers on the weekends and delivering pizzas at night. The reality of this situation was devastating, and the problem was not isolated to just one military base. Many of our military families struggle just to feed their children, and many of these brave American servicemen and women were simply “doing with-



photo courtesy of Feed The Children

Feed The Children held emergency food drops at Military bases throughout the United States to support our Military families when it heard of the financial difficulties many young Military families were having meeting their families’ basic needs.

out.” For young, married enlisted personnel, a meager pay scale has created enormous stress and hardship. Military housing is impossible for most, housing allowances are insufficient, and many must take second jobs at minimum wage just to feed and clothe their families.

See **Feed The Children**, page 10

Beydler takes command of 'Sharpshooters'

By Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Col. Barry B. Bizzell relinquished command of Marine Fighter-Attack Training Squadron 101, to Lt. Col. William D. Beydler during a change-of-command ceremony Tuesday at Hangar three.

Bizzell, a native of Long Beach, Calif., has commanded the squadron since June 1999. His next assignment will be as a student at the Naval War College at Newport, R.I.

"Sixteen months ago I received very simple and explicit guidance from the former commanding general of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing. He said, "I assess my success by the success of 101. Right now 101 is broken. Fix it," said Bizzell at the ceremony. "After a very short 16 months in command I can say that 101 is fixed, not because my efforts, but because of the miraculously super-human efforts of the warriors you see before you."

Beydler comes from the 3d MAW Headquarter where he served as the Assistant chief of staff G-5 Plans.

"I am honored to have the privilege to command," said Beydler. "I am honored to join in command of the Marines and Sailors of VMFAT-101. I know there will be challenges and I look forward to the challenges."

Beydler has nearly 19 years of service under his belt. Since his graduation from the Naval Academy in 1981 his long career has brought him to both U.S. coasts, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq and several ships among other places. He has also spent time in a classroom not only as a student in the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, but also as an Adversary Tactics instructor and a Marine Expeditionary Force Staff Planning instructor.

He has accumulated over 3,000 flight hours in tactical jet aircraft with over 2,500 in the F/A-18. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, the Air Medal and the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Gold Star.

Beydler is married to the former Kimberly Ann Stevens of Harrisonburg, Va. They have two children, Shannon Elizabeth and Robert Stevens.



Official USMC photo

Lt. Col. William D. Beydler



Official USMC photo

Col. Barry B. Bizzell



Sergeant Major's Corner



By Sgt. Maj. Ira J. Lott

MCABWA Sergeant Major

What is so difficult about doing things safely that is so hard to catch on? Unlike a catchy tune from a hot recording artist, doing things safely is still below the Top 40 on the popularity scale.

Leadership and safety go hand-in-hand. For instance, coming into work in the morning I saw a unit doing a platoon run. As I said it was early and the platoon had *no* reflective vests of any type. The safety vehicle was a four door Honda and I don't remember seeing a corpsman. A platoon of 10-15 Marines and a four-door Honda?

To make matters worse, when first questioned about where the safety vehicle was, the senior Marine got a little agitated. Was his focus on the safety of his Marines or the fact that they were doing morning physical training as a unit?

I didn't even mention the stragglers behind the safety vehicle!!

Are all Marines not safety NCO's? Can a junior Marine tactfully tell a senior Marine that they shouldn't start the run until all safety requirements are met?

I think the answer to both questions is unequivocally yes!

Unit PT safety is near and dear to me for many reasons. One reason is that while stationed in Twentynine Palms, Calif., the base sergeant major ordered all sergeants major and first sergeants to go to the hospital to identify a Marine who was found dead on the side of a dirt road with no identification on him.

The story was that the staff sgt. was to PT his platoon, but he didn't feel like it. He exercised his "SNCOness" and told the sergeant to PT the platoon. The sergeant did the 'daily seven,' a right face and led the run. Never did he look back,

nor did he have a safety vehicle or corpsman.

The Marine in question had just gotten in from a night of partying around 4 a.m. He fell behind the platoon and subsequently fell off to the side of the road. The platoon returned from their run, did a quick time march, halt, left face and fell out. No one knew the Marine was missing! He was found 2-3 hours later.

I've never forgotten this because we lost a Marine due to stupidity. Unfortunately, it happened but we should learn from it. If only the staff sergeant would have done his job and ensured the safety mechanisms were in place. If only the sergeant would have evaluated his Marine prior to the run. If he ensured that someone would have dropped back with the Marine.

Do you know the difference between good and great?

A little more safety in training!

CMC reassigns 3,500 Marines to 'traditional' duties

Courtesy of National Defense News

The Commandant of the Marine Corps is pulling 3,500 active-duty troops from non-combat positions next month, in order to strengthen the war-fighting ranks.

This move is part of Gen. James L. Jones' plan to return as many Marines as possible to "traditional" combat duties that he considers more productive, Jones told National Defense in a recent interview.

As the Corps becomes increasingly involved in overseas deployments and homeland anti-terrorism operations, its operational forces are being stretched too thin, said Jones. For that reason, he wants to take Marines out of civilian-type jobs, such as administrative positions and mess-hall duty, and reassign them to war-fighting units.

Jones does not plan to ask Congress to expand the size of the Marine Corps yet. But he would, if he believed it was necessary. "If you keep exponentially adding to the mission envelope, of course, you have to draw the line," said Jones. "Because the end-strength is not

adjusting symmetrically" to the workload. "I would not hesitate to go to the Congress, if missions kept coming, and say 'to do this, I need 195,000 Marines.' But we are not there yet."

Responsibilities such as domestic chemical-biological response primarily should be handled by reserve forces and the National Guard, not by active-duty units, said Jones. The Corps currently has a chemical-biological incident response unit, based in the Washington, D.C. area, which has been involved in high-profile events around the United States. But Jones does not see that mission as a core Marine occupation. "What we are hoping, in the case of the chem-bio incident response force, is that this will be a model for others to follow," he said.

But homeland defense is a "role for the Reserves and the National Guard. I would hope that some time in the future ... we would get out of the homeland defense business, at least for the active forces. I see that as the primacy of the National Guard and the reserves, with the active duty forces as back-ups."

In overseas deployments, conversely, the active duty troops are the primary combatants, whereas the reserves are the supporting force.

Internal reforms are one way to address personnel shortages in combat-related areas, said Jones. "On Oct. 1 we will have found the equivalent of a regiment of Marines, from within our organization, who will be used more productively in operational missions."

That equates to about 3,500 Marines whose jobs will be replaced or eliminated entirely. "They will be returned to what I consider more productive, traditional Marine occupations," said Jones. These Marines will not become part of a single unit but will be assigned to various organizations to bolster the operational forces. "I am a strong advocate of the primacy of the operational forces. Everything else is secondary," said Jones. "If I can find Marines in those secondary missions, I will either find another way to do those missions [or] eliminate them completely and return them to the operational forces."

VA offers benefits for Agent Orange exposure

Congress has declared that any service member who served in Vietnam during Feb. 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975 was exposed to agent orange, and such exposure may have caused several types of cancer.

Diagnosis of any of these conditions will be considered “service connected” by the VA. The veteran may be entitled to compensation up to \$2,000 a month. If the veteran is retired from the military this could change him or her to tax-free status. All Vietnam veterans should get a complete physical compliments of the VA.

If a Vietnam Vet is afflicted with the following: lung cancer, multiple myeloma, Hodgkin’s disease, lymphoma, or prostate cancer, it will be considered “service connected even if it occurs many years after service. Call 1-800-827-1000 for a claim form and submit it to the nearest VA.

Combat Action Ribbon

Marines and Sailors in Kosovo from June 9, 1999 until Jan. 27, 2000 and/or part of Operations Joint Force, Allied Force/Noble Anvil and Eagle Eye may be able to add another ribbon to their collection.

The Secretary of the Navy recently approved a change in the Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual regarding the combat action ribbon. Due to the change in warfare, the criteria for the combat action ribbon has changed to include peacekeeping operations.

The following criteria must be met in order to be eligible for the combat action ribbon. The service member must be subject to hostile, direct fire; based on the mission and tactical situation, not returning fire was the best course of action; and the service member must have been in compliance with the rules of engagement and orders by not returning fire.

The combat action ribbon for peacekeeping operations is retroactive to Aug. 25, 1982. For more information see Marine Administrative Message 463/00.

Marines encouraged to use ‘Marine Mail’

All Marine Message 031/00 recently came out to remind Marines of the use of “Marine Mail.” This is a way to submit ideas to Headquarters Marine Corps for the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Criteria for submission includes the following questions: What aren’t we doing that we should be doing, what are we doing that we should do differently, what are we doing that we shouldn’t be doing, and what new concept or idea should the Marine Corps investigate? The e-mail address is *marinemail@HQMC.usmc.mil* or fax (703) 614-5035.

Community hosts Military Appreciation Night

The San Diego Armed Services YMCA and the Gas lamp District are hosting a Military Appreciation Night Oct. 19 starting at 6 p.m. The first 500 people will receive a free T-shirt.

For a \$5 fee you will receive discounts

on food, beverages and services at participating locations. For more information, call (619) 232-1133 or visit the Web site *http://www.asymcasd.org*.

Free photo ID available for children

Cannon Mobile will have numerous products and provide information about environmental and charitable youth programs Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Monday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Base Exchange.

They will also be doing digital photographs of children for law enforcement identification as part of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

School for truck drivers offered

The California Career School provides training around the Miramar area for people interested in becoming commercial truck drivers. The training hours are flexible and can be worked around schedules. Training

takes four to eight weeks. For more information, call 1-877-669-9908.

Area 51 offers lunch specials

“Area 51” the Enlisted club and Pizza Pizzazz offer daily lunch specials for stomachs running on empty.

Today’s lunch special is the seafood platter, for \$5.75; Monday, spaghetti for \$4.25; Tuesday, fried chicken and French fries for \$4.25; Wednesday, French dip for \$4.75 and Thursday, pork sirloin with mashed potatoes and corn on the cob for \$4.75. For more information, call 577-4825.

Retired Officers Association holds convention

The Retired Officers Association will hold its national convention in San Diego Oct. 14-18 at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego. A dinner will be held Oct. 16, to honor Medal of Honor recipients and the former Tonight Show Star, Ed McMahon will

be speaking.

There will be many other activities throughout the convention. For more information, call 1-800-245-8762.

Volunteers sought for community project

The 3d MAW Chaplain’s office is assisting in repairing homes and performing yard work for adults and children with special needs. The event will take place at Ivey Ranch in Oceanside, Calif., from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information call 577 – 7368.

Navy League holds luncheon

The San Diego County Women’s Council of the United States Navy League is hosting its annual cards and luncheon Nov. 10 at 10 a.m., at the San Diego USO located at 303 A Street.

The cost is \$12 and will go toward USO holiday dinners. For more information, call Leticia Parker at (619) 474-6041 or Rose Burnett at (619) 432-7546.



11th MEU put through rigors of TRAP

Story and photos by
Sgt. Eric McLeroy

PAO, 11th MEU

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – If 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel training seemed real Sept. 21, it was supposed to, according to Staff Sgt. Vincent Kyzer, chief TRAP instructor, Special Operations Training Group.

"I want the Marines I train to experience every possible scenario here, so they won't experience it for the first time when bullets are flying around them," Kyzer explained. "I put them through almost every scenario (of rescuing pilots who have been shot down behind enemy lines) possible."

The Marines who attended Kyzer's TRAP course make up the Combined Anti-Armor Team (CAAT), Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/1. Normally, their missions are

Marines of Combined Anti-Armor Team, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/1, 11th MEU, earned their role as the MEU's Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel force when they completed the two-week TRAP course Sept. 22 at Camp Pendleton. The course, sponsored by Special Operations Training Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, involves realistic training scenarios designed to test the Marines knowledge of mantracking, evasion and triage.

directed toward the decimation of an enemy's mechanized capability.

Their additional role as the MEU's TRAP force, one of 23 missions a Special Operations Capable MEU may be called upon to perform, is challenging and the realism of the course reflects it, according to Kyzer.

The thumping sound of helicopter blades echoed through the urban mock-up at the 25 Area "combat town" here, and dust clouds erupted from the earth as two CH-46E "Sea Knight" helicopters touched down near the town. It was their eighth and final mission of the two-week course, but it wasn't the easiest, according to Sgt. Eric Young, 26, recovery team leader.

Team by team, the Marines rushed out of the helicopters into a cloud of dust charging over hilly and rocky terrain. Enemy role-players lay "dead" at their feet, the work of helicopter door gunners during the aircrafts'

approach.

From the sky, team leaders had scanned the area below and quickly recognized buildings from intelligence reports. Some were thought to hold a four-man reconnaissance team and pilot, and the enemy was believed to occupy others. The reconnaissance team rescued the pilot days prior but couldn't escape after being attacked by enemy forces.

"A lot of the time we rely on intelligence information," Young said. "That information can suddenly change, and can be the determining factor in a failed mission."

Newly appointed team leaders were disoriented after moving through the wall of dust and some weren't sure where the team had landed in relation to the town. As the teams made their way through the maze of cement structures, the pilot and reconnaissance team's location came into question.

"I wanted them to make

mistakes here at the course," Kyzer stated. "If they do it in-country, people could die. In this course, they needed the ability to rebound and learn from their mistakes. They were tired and hungry, and they displayed some intestinal fortitude and got through it. This is not an easy course."

Chaos exploded in the dirt streets when Young's recovery team darted toward a two-story structure. They didn't know whether the people inside were enemy or friendly,



Artificial injuries made of latex and plastic were used to bring realism to the Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel training Sept. 21. Combined Anti-Armor Team of Battalion Landing Team 2/1, 11th MEU completed the two-week TRAP course as part pre-deployment training in preparation for the MEU's Western Pacific tour to the Arabian Gulf Region next year.

but when Platoon Commander, 1st Lt. Chris Westhoff, made the call, the teams rushed the building.

"We're U.S. Marines!" Shouted a Marine as he moved into the structure's doorway and took aim with his weapon.

More role-players lay dead in the streets, a result of sporadic firefights, as Marines continued

toward the building.

Inside, a man huddled in the corner, gripped his arm and grimaced at the sight of bone protruding through the skin of his forearm. The blood and bone fracture were part of the scenario, the realism a credit to the Hollywood-style makeup used by SOTG.

See **TRAP**, page 10



13th MEU(SOC) exceeded expectations in East Timor

By Sgt. M.C. Miller

PAO, 13th MEU(SOC)

DILI, East Timor – It only took Marines and Sailors of 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group three days to help people here get a head start on a lifetime of independence.

In those three days, Sept. 14-16, 13th MEU(SOC) and Tarawa ARG delivered 570 tons of supplies, treated hundreds of medical and dental patients and performed numerous other missions in three East Timor cities.

The humanitarian assistance came during the midst of 13th MEU(SOC)'s six-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf. The humanitarian assistance is conducted on a rotational basis, and the 15th and 31st MEUs have previously visited the country to provide help and demonstrate U.S. resolve to continue providing help to East Timor.

The 13th MEU(SOC) and Tarawa ARG combined to provide the largest amount of American assistance yet to East Timor, which is still struggling with the aftermath of its new independence.

East Timor is a country of coastal and mountainous beauty, but afflicted by violence which has wrecked its serene scenery. It suffered heavy devastation throughout when, about one year ago, militias protested the vote for independence by attacking the citizens and burning buildings.



photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Gude

Cpl. J.A. Quintero, left, assesses the situation while Staff Sgt. Joseph Roach, center, rushes forward to establish perimeter security as Hospitalman Joseph Lanyon, with stretcher, gets ready to take a board to where a downed pilot is located during a Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel mission at Kangaroo Flats Training Area in the Northern Territory of Australia, Sept. 8. The TRAP training, conducted by K Company, Battalion Landing Team 3/1, was part of 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) sustainment training during its six-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf.

As Marines and Sailors walked through a hard-hit part of Dili, one remarked, "It looks like a MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) town." Several areas of the country were almost totally destroyed, including Oecussi, a city separated from the rest of East Timor by a swath of West Timor land.

A United Nations peacekeeping force, along with U.N. aid workers and non-government organizations, has been in the

country since the independence vote was taken and the violence started. They continue to help the East Timorese rebuild, and have provided food and help to protect the citizens from further militia attacks. To aid the U.N. and NGO efforts, the MEU(SOC)/ARG team stopped in the hot, sticky country after training in Australia and off-loaded more than 700 Marines and

13th MEU(SOC), Tarawa ARG missions completed in East Timor

Airlift missions:

- Eight tons of roofing materials from Suai to Lakto
- 23 tons of shelter kits from Maliana to three remote sites in Bobonaro school
- 28 tons of shelter kits from Maliana to Lolotoe
- 24 tons of school roofing materials from Suai to Lolotoe and Zolipo
- 20 tons of school roofing material from Suai to Lebos
- 29 tons of orphanage roofing material from Manatuto to Soibabda

Medical/Dental missions:

- 200 medical patients treated at Bairo Pite Clinic in Dili
- 158 medical patients treated at Motael Clinic in Dili
- 133 dental patients treated at Bairo Pite and Motael Clinics in Dili
- 42 dental patients treated at Maliana

Community Relations:

- Train East Timorese as front end loader operators.
- 24 unsafe buildings demolished in Dili
- Train East Timorese security personnel
- Nine pallets from Project Handclasp delivered to community in Dili and Oecussi by the Marines and Sailors of the 13th MEU(SOC) and Tarawa ARG
- SD1 school painted in Dili
- SD3 school and additional exterior building painted in Dili
- Cathedral church and steeple painted in Dili
- Seven basketball backboards installed or repaired around Dili
- Ship tours to more than 300 East Timorese, U.N. and U.S. personnel temporarily stationed in East Timor
- USGET change of command from Marine Corps Col. Michael Williams to Army Col. Louis Traverzo

Sealift missions:

- 35 tons of market place material and food supplies from Dili to Oecussi
- 388 tons of food supplies from Dili to Oecussi
- 15 tons of hospital supplies from Dili to Atauro Island
- Cargo handling davit to Arturo Island

See **13th MEU(SOC)**, page 11

Gunny keeps audiences laughing and dancing

By Sgt. Troy M. Ruby

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Talent is an intriguing thing because some people have it, and some don't. There's also a select few who are abundantly talented like Gunnery Sgt. Robert Wardlaw, the administration chief for the Provost Marshal's Office here.

Wardlaw is a very talented musician, and a nationally televised comedian! You might even have seen him aboard the air station, as he quite frequently displays his talents at Marine Corps Community Services events here.

Musically, Wardlaw plays the guitar; lead, bass and rhythm for — not one, but two bands! The first, City Rhythms, is a jazz ensemble that plays mainly for retirement parties, social gatherings and other small get-togethers. His other band is called Rare Form. They play strictly funk, "old school" and rhythm and blues music, mostly in nightclubs from San Diego to Los Angeles.

"Both bands are made up of a mixture of good musicians that I have played with on a regular basis and I respected their talents. We just stayed in touch and decide to form a band," said Wardlaw.

He has been playing with the bands for only about one year, but his guitar roots began to sprout about 20 years ago.

"I come from a musical family. My mother sang in the choir, my brother plays the drums and my sister plays the piano, so

they were a big musical influence," said Wardlaw. "People used to come over to my house to play, and when they would take a break, I would pick up the guitar and tinker with it. I didn't really get serious, though, until I was about 18."

"I like all music. When I see a band that is playing country or bluegrass or ragtime for example, even though that's not what I listen to, I can still see the skill in their music. Too many people are hung up on competing against each other, and that's not what music is about. It's about the enjoyment of it; for both you and the listener," said Wardlaw.

His comedy career started when he showed up at a club to play and they had "open mike night" for comedians before the bands started playing. He didn't realize that the club was actually used by well known comics such as Damon Wayans to practice their material, so he put himself on the list.

"When I went on stage I completely forgot the jokes I was going to tell, so I was fumbling and making excuses, and everybody started laughing. I think they were laughing because I just didn't know what to do. I had a southern accent and it was obvious that I was an amateur, so they just kind of thought it was funny," said Wardlaw.

After he was finished on stage, he was approached by the owner of the club who asked him to come back and host their show. He agreed, and continued to

perform his improvised act, however, he soon discovered that he needed to spend the time to write and practice his material if he was going to improve.

"When I was still trying to find my comedy style, I used to play acoustic guitar in coffee shops and because I'm kind of crazy anyway, I used to change the lyrics to songs to make them funny. So I started incorporating that style into my comedy sets, but it wasn't really working," said Wardlaw.

During a visit to the dentist to fix a chipped tooth, Wardlaw notice an oversized set of teeth and he just started laughing. The dentist made Wardlaw his own set of oversized teeth, and the character, Cleophis Brown, was born.

"I put in the teeth, had my baseball hat turned to the side and it just became funnier and the audiences were accepting the song parodies. I then added jokes, a Gerri Curl wig and then started giving him different occupations. He's been a rodeo champion, package delivery person and a



Wardlaw jams with his band 'City Rhythms' during a performance aboard MCAS Miramar. Wardlaw's comedic act can be seen regularly at the Laugh Factory. The Laugh Factory is located at 8001 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, Calif. For more information, call (323) 656-1336.

doctor. What's really funny, is that people always come up to me and say that Cleophis is exactly like a relative or someone that they know," said Wardlaw.

His new comedy routine has been very successful for Wardlaw. He recently made his fourth appearance on Black Entertainment Television's "Comic View." The latest taping is scheduled to air later this month on BET, said Wardlaw.

"Comic View showcases comedians

See **Wardlaw**, page 11

Kids

coloring Contest

Win 4
Tickets to
SEAWORLD

ENTRY FORM

Child's Name

Child's Age

Address

City, State, Zip

All entries must be received by October 26, 2000. Winners will be published in the November 2, 2000 edition.

Mail entries to:

Coloring Contest
The FLIGHT JACKET
P.O. Box 452013
San Diego, Ca 92145

'232,
continued from page 1

You will find that they are very much like yourselves, only a few years older.”

“Former Red Devils, behind you is the future of the Marine Corps and this nation. We are 150 Marines strong with an average age of 22-years-old ... You’ll find that we are a diverse crowd, spanning all ranks, creed, religions, color, gender and ethnic background,” said Gould. “We represent one Marine Corps, one team and one fight. We are focused on the mission to maintain the highest standards of combat readiness as possible.”

Blood Drive,
continued from page 1

replacement procedures,”

The whole process of giving blood usually takes about 45 minutes per person. It begins by reading information about the donation process and reasons that would disqualify them from donating, such as having a cold or taking antibiotics. After reading through the information, they will fill out a blood registration form, on which they will answer health-related questions. These answers help further determine if the person can donate blood and are discussed during the next step, the health interview. After the potential donor passes a mini-physical and if all went well during the interview, they then actually have the blood drawn.

In total, 96 Marines donated blood and of that, the American Red Cross collected 86 good units of blood. There were actually more Marines willing to give blood, but the Red Cross did not have the supplies or personnel to support the additional donations. “I always give blood when I can because about six years ago a friend was in a car accident and they didn’t have his type of

blood,” said Sgt. Shawn Thomas from MALS-11 aviation supply. “I had his blood type, so I gave it to him and have been donating ever since.”

DECA,
continued from page 1

all your cleaning products. It’s a simple matter of making the commissary layout more sensible by “resetting” the store. DeCA Director, Air Force Major General Robert J. Courter, Jr., is intent on making the commissary shopping experience faster and easier – making the commissary the place to shop for day-to-day food needs and not just for stocking up on pay day.

One of the priorities is to help busy active duty shoppers make a quick run through their commissary and get home more quickly, so baby food, snacks and other grab-and-go items will be moved to the front of the aisles. Ideally, customers won’t have to shop the entire store to find a few necessary items.

If customers do want to load up the shopping cart though, shopping at one of DeCA’s super stores might be just the ticket. “Basically super stores will have a larger selection of popular items such as vitamins, value items like DeCA’s Powerbuy\$, and an increased supply of products that people buy in large quantities,” says Sones. There should be less pressure on super stores to restock late in the day to accommodate evening shoppers.

Consistency is also part of the key, says Sones. “Why shouldn’t you be able to go to different commissaries and basically find the same layout? A shopper in Norfolk Va., for example should be able to go to any one of half a dozen commissaries there and feel like they know where to find their favorite products.”

All in all, says Sones, customers should be happy when they see a notice that their commissary is going to be closed for a reset or for conversion to a super store. “We hope they just ‘go with the flow,’” he laughs. “We might be closed for two days but we think the customers will find they have a better shopping experience when we reopen.”

The Defense Commissary Agency, headquartered at Fort Lee, Virginia, operates a worldwide chain of nearly 300 commissaries to provide groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families.

Commissary patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5 percent surcharge, which builds and renovates stores and covers some operational expenses. Patrons enjoy average savings of 27 percent, so a family of four can save more than \$2,000 per year. These savings enhance the quality of life for America’s military and their families. A valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries help the United States recruit and keep the best and the brightest men and women in the service of their country.

Feed The Children,
continued from page 3

Furthermore, when the Marines and Army deploy, it usually means that a young wife is left alone, far from her family and support base, with one or more small children to care for, often with little or no transportation. Deployment also means that the already meager paycheck must cover both the family at home as well as living expenses for the deployed soldier.

Small wonder, then, that Marine families with young children were so grateful and enthusiastic at the Feed The Children Military Food Distribution. From the squeals of the little children to the smiling faces of their parents, these young families were so encouraged by our show of support.

Said one proud young Marine father, “It’s tremendous of Feed The Children to be here.” It’s a great encouragement because no one should have to choose between serving your country or feeding your family.

We’re there, all year, for families like his and thousands of others across America and all over the world. Thank you for standing with us for brave people in hard times and for the children! Feed The Children participates in the Combined Federal Campaign as a member of the Christian Service Charities federation (formerly Christian Service Organizations of America federation).

TRAP,
continued from page 6

“I didn’t think the stress level would be high after sitting through all of the mission briefs,” said Navy Hospital Apprentice Joshua Leventhal, 22, platoon corpsman. “As it was happening, it felt real. The stress level progressively got higher.”

The entire rescue mission lasted about 20 minutes, during which time, the TRAP force found the injured men, identified them, treated their wounds, and returned them to the helicopter before making their escape.

The most intense moments came when the Marines encountered the downed pilot and reconnaissance team. Before their injuries were treated, they had to be identified. During the course, the Marines learned tracking skills to find pilots and evaders, and were also instructed to recognize what pilots carry with them for identification.

“When a TRAP force goes into enemy territory, everyone’s an enemy,” Kyzer said. “Initially, there’s tension between the pilot and the TRAP force. The Marines have to make sure the pilot is a friendly and assure him that they are Marines.”

Inside the building, the recovery teams found the reconnaissance team and wounded

pilot.

“U.S. Marine coming upstairs. Keep your weapon on the deck!” Rang out, as the recovery team searched the building.

The injuries ranged from broken bones to open stomach wounds. The injured men spewed fake blood, screamed and writhed in pain as they played out their role as the downed pilot and injured reconnaissance Marines.

“This was the best training I’ve had so far,” Leventhal said. “It challenged me to bring the platoon’s focus toward treating casualties and it allowed me to apply my knowledge. It has made me a better corpsman.”

For the Marines, treating casualties wasn’t part of their routine training exercises. Although challenging and stressful, the Marines were excited about their new role for 11th MEU.

“This training was awesome. It was realistic and stressful,” Young said. “Our motivation level helps. I feel that being part of the TRAP force is prestigious. We want to be the best, because we might have to go in and rescue Americans.”

13th MEU(SOC), continued from page 7

Sailors each day to conduct 26 separate missions. Along with the food, building supplies, roofing supplies and medical and dental patients, the team painted two schools and a landmark cathedral steeple, installed seven basketball backboards and trained East Timorese people in heavy machinery operations and security procedures.

The MEU(SOC)/ARG also delivered two shipments of supplies from Project Hand-clasp, a nonprofit organization based in the United States. The deliveries included a variety of smaller items that were lost during the struggles with militias, such as hospital equipment, hygiene supplies, school supplies, food, and library books.

The friendly, open manner of the East Timorese was a revelation to the service members, who didn’t know what to expect from the locals.

“It would have been easy to think that everyone here is probably tired of what’s been going on, but they don’t seem that way at all,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Asa Saunders, a 24-year-old chaplain’s assistant aboard *USS Tarawa*, who volunteered to help paint a school. “These people have a lot of spirit, and are very nice.”

“This is one of the many very complete contributions the United States has made as part of the United States Support Group East Timor arrangement,” said Sergio Viera de Mello, special representative of the Secretary General of the UN. “Thanks to all of you for the humanitarian assistance and support you have extended to the people of East Timor.”

Each mission was accompanied by a security force, but the focus of effort was always helping the people.

“It’s pretty bad out here, but to look around and see all these children waving at us and coming in to help us, that makes it pretty clear why we’re here,” said Cpl. William Cahrier, 22, of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 39. Cahrier helped paint a school, transforming the facility from a sun-

bleached mauve to burgundy and gold, trimmed in white. “This is all for these kids, to give them a future.”

“The U.S. military is composed of men and women who represent the high ideals and moral values of our country,” said Col. Christopher Gunther, commanding officer, 13th MEU(SOC). “Nowhere is that more evident than here in East Timor.”

The 13th MEU(SOC) and Tarawa ARG visit culminated in a ship’s visit by more than 300 East Timorese and UN and U.S. personnel temporarily stationed in East Timor. A change-of-command ceremony was also held aboard *USS Tarawa*, as leadership of USGET changed from Marine Corps Col. Michael Williams to Army Col. Louis Traverzo.

Wardlaw, continued from page 8

from around world. I have also been in a few commercials for the show and I have also made the Best of Comic View,” said Wardlaw.

Wardlaw will be retiring from the Marine Corps in January 2001, and plans on moving to Los Angeles. Retirement for him doesn’t mean the end of work though. He has plans to work as a professional studio musician, continue working on a situation comedy for television, and finish the movie that he has been working on.



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‘MCCS Connection’ makes debut

The new eight-page monthly newsletter, “MCCS Connection,” will make its debut with the October issue. The newsletter contains news of MCCS events in story, paragraph, bullet point and boxed formats, along with a calendar. “MCCS Connection” will contain photos of recent events and links of interest – for example, to posted race results for the Miramar 10K/5K. Miramar sports will also be highlighted. The front-page story for the first issue is the 2000 Miramar Air Show.

David Copperfield: Unknown Dimension

See it live onstage at the San Diego Civic Theatre! Available for two days only, Nov. 24-25, don’t miss Copperfield’s most electrifying theater event ever!

The Entertainment Ticket Office has discounted tickets for both shows, at 4 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$32.50 per person. Seats are located in the Dress Circle and Mezzanine. Visit the Entertainment Ticket Office in Building 2524, or call (858) 577-4126.

Discounted ticket supplies are limited, so don’t delay. For more information about the show and the illusionist, visit www.linkinpage.com/copperfield.html.